

Fishery Denominators Used for Preliminary Eligibility and Initial Quota Share (QS) and Processor Quota Share (PQS) Determinations

NOAA Fisheries Service (NMFS), Restricted Access Management (RAM) has established numbers that reflect the “total qualified catch” of crab needed to determine eligibility and to compute QS awards for each sector and fishery in the Crab Rationalization Program (CR Program). These numbers are called the fishery “denominators” and are expressed by sector, fishery and by season. Different “denominators” are used for all three sectors, including: Holders of License Limitation Program (LLP) crab licenses, Captains/Crew, and Processors. LLP Holder and Captains/Crew denominators are annual; processors denominators include all qualifying years’ pounds.

RAM’s “denominators” are part of the NOAA Fisheries Official Crab Rationalization Record (Official CR Record) and are somewhat different from the estimates published by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council). Generally, the Official CR Record denominators are higher than the denominators published by the Council.

The main reasons for the differences are summarized below:

- The Official CR Record denominators include landings from the LLP “Amendment 10” replacement licenses, and the Council’s do not;
- The Official CR Record denominators were developed after the Council published its version, so the Official CR Record data are more recent (including the fishing history retired by the buy-back program);
- The status of some LLP licenses has changed since the Council published its version of the denominators, and the net change has resulting in additional fishing history being included in the calculations.

Below, we describe the denominators and their use, and explain how they were developed.

RAM’s sector and fishery denominators include all raw crab pounds that meet program qualification tests. These denominators represent the “best available” information at the time they were established.

Using denominators as an estimate of total qualifying pounds enables us to provide application Summaries to potential applicants and to inform them of their apparent eligibility and relative position in a fishery. Actual total qualifying pounds cannot be

determined until after the application period ends and all Agency application determinations, including appeals, are final. However, because each person's QS or PQS award is based on a **percentage** of a fishery's denominator, the exact amounts of qualifying pounds in a denominator are not important. For that reason, it is critical that we use the same denominator for all applicants in the same sector and fishery, so that relative amounts of QS and PQS awarded are appropriate to each person's participation in the fishery. Therefore, these denominators will remain constant, and will apply to all applicants, even if individual applicants cause us to change the Official CR Record.

Although fishery denominators will not change, applicant records may change as a result of approved claims. Such approvals may also change the sum of all applicants' average annual percents (used in the so-called "Percentage of Total Percentage" computation step) for all applicants in the same fishery and sector. As claims are processed and approved, all of the data used for the actual award of QS will be updated.

Note: A Court Order issued in August, 2005, compelled NOAA Fisheries to grant quota for the Western Aleutian Island golden king crab WAG) fishery on an interim basis to Alaska Trojan Fisheries, pending the outcome of an appeal before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Notwithstanding the general statements earlier in this paragraph, on an interim basis, NOAA recomputed the LLP Holder's (Owner's) fishery denominators and percentages for total percentages and reissued all QS for the WAG fishery. Further administrative action and/or recomputation may be needed when a final Court Decision becomes effective. Tables below reflect these interim measures.

The following table explains the choices that were made by RAM while assembling the fishery denominators for the different types of QS/PQS applicants.

NOAA's Fishery Denominator Content

	LLP Holders	Captain/Crew	Processors
Landing Type			
Personal use crab	Included	Included	Excluded
Crab that was other than harvest code 11 (traditional state managed fishery); i.e., fishing that was outside GHFs, or experimental, exploratory, test, or survey fishing; or not harvested or landed in compliance with State and Federal regulations in effect at the time.	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
Deadloss and crab that was (or was required to be) discarded, confiscated, or forfeited; crab that was contaminated; crab used for personal use bait	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
CDQ crab	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
AFA, Crab Buyback Retired History	Excluded	Included	Included
History of Interim LLP crab licenses	Included only for current approved licenses and endorsements	Included	Included

History of LLP licenses Based on More than One Original Qualifying Vessel	Included	Included	Included
For LLP, for the AI golden king crab fisheries, additional history of one vessel (for a specific regulatory provision)	Included	Included	Included
Landings in fisheries for which the LLP license has no endorsement	Excluded (<i>with the exception WAG landings held by Alaska Trojan Partnership</i>)	Included	Included
Landings from vessels on which an LLP license was used during qualifying period, other than the original qualifying vessel(s) for that license	Excluded	Included	Included
Landings outside season end date + 7 days	Excluded	Excluded	Excluded
All other landings that meet Sector and Fishery qualification in Instructions Tables 7 or 9 (as appropriate)	Included	Included	Included

**Fishery Denominators Used to Compute Initial Issuance of
LLP License Holder and Crew Quota Share (in raw crab pounds)**

Crab QS Fishery	Calendar Year in Which Qualifying Season Started	Annual LLP Holder Harvest Denominators for LLP Holders	Annual Harvest Denominators for Captains/Crew
BBR	1996	7,554,012	5,491,579
BBR	1997	7,760,630	6,426,627
BBR	1998	12,594,947	9,966,009
BBR	1999	9,633,863	8,503,611
BBR	2000	6,473,953	5,803,865
BSS	1996	57,495,855	33,562,212
BSS	1997	105,388,886	69,873,441
BSS	1998	212,307,916	158,064,594
BSS	1999	159,164,323	123,572,233
BSS	2000	23,106,582	19,579,021
BST	1991	25,974,873	16,298,333
BST	1992	29,464,205	21,731,580
BST	1993 (Includes early and late November openings)	14,104,438	11,105,677
BST	1994	6,669,663	5,437,682
BST	1995	3,848,820	3,023,942
BST	1996 (Includes early and late November openings)	1,571,627	1,450,275
EAG	1996	1,973,307	1,566,611
EAG	1997	2,326,415	2,113,084
EAG	1998	2,376,817	2,770,325

EAG	1999	2,054,921	2,752,948
EAG	2000	2,311,681	2,912,813
PIK	1994	1,165,602	394,174
PIK	1995	1,436,273	843,147
PIK	1996	826,295	774,894
PIK	1997	857,499	886,589
PIK	1998	680,654	752,492
SMB	1994	3,083,996	1,800,448
SMB	1995	2,449,920	1,905,171
SMB	1996	2,249,672	1,815,901
SMB	1997	3,339,965	2,775,255
SMB	1998	2,004,610	1,616,850
WAG	1996	2,447,110 1,896,731 *	1,485,235
WAG	1997	2,182,235 1,453,404 *	1,304,986
WAG	1998	1,670,167 1,092,519 *	***
WAG	1999	2,589,407 2,192,938 *	1,601,097
WAG	2000	2,746,443 1,880,498 *	1,805,149
WAI	1992	937,278	***
WAI	1993	513,453	***
WAI	1994	149,191	260,629
WAI	1995	37,526	***

Notes to Table:

Fishery definitions: BBR = Bristol Bay red king crab; BSS = Bering Sea snow crab; BST = Bering Sea Tanner crab; EAG = Eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab; PIK = Pribilof Islands red and blue king crab; SMB = St. Matthew blue king crab; WAG = Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab; WAI = Western Aleutian Islands red king crab.

**** WAG LLP Holder's (Owner's) denominators were revised to include, on at least an interim basis, WAG qualifying pounds for landings history held by Alaska Trojan Fisheries. This history was previously excluded because the LLP license holder was denied an Aleutian Islands golden king crab endorsement by NOAA Fisheries. See the Note earlier in this document.***

Fishery denominators are based on qualifying pounds and are shown for all qualifying seasons. For LLP Holders and Crew, actual initial issuance computations are based on an applicant's "best seasons".

*** indicates data are confidential.

Fishery Denominators Used to Compute Initial Issuance of
Processor Quota Share (in raw crab pounds)

Crab QS Fishery	Seasons Included in Total Processing Denominator (TPD) Computation. Years are the Calendar Years in Which the Season Started	Total Processing Denominator (TPD)
BBR	1997, 1998, 1999	32,186,435
BSS	1997, 1998, 1999	499,791,146
BST	Based on BBR and BSS	None (see Notes)
EAG	1996, 1997, 1998, 1999	11,912,701
PIK	1996, 1997, 1998	3,349,012
SMB	1996, 1997, 1998	10,096,500
WAG	1996, 1997, 1998, 1999	4,847,869
WAI	Equal to WAG TPD	4,847,869

Notes to Table:

Fishery definitions: BBR = Bristol Bay red king crab; BSS = Bering Sea snow crab;
 BST = Bering Sea Tanner crab; EAG = Eastern Aleutian Islands golden king crab
 PIK = Pribilof Islands red and blue king crab; SMB = St. Matthew blue king crab
 WAG = Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab;
 WAI = Western Aleutian Islands red king crab.

Fishery denominators are based on qualifying pounds and for processors are the sums of all qualifying seasons.

For BST, there is no specific fishery PQS denominator. For this sector, a PQS award for a person is based the average percent of their denominators for BBR and BSS fisheries. This average percent is multiplied by the Initial PQS Pool for that fishery to determine the number of PQS units to be issued.